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## Jeremiah Gage to Unknown Sister (17 April 1860)

Jeremiah Gage

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Home April 17<sup>th</sup> 1860

My dear Sister

It becomes my painful duty to inform you of Pa's death. He died of spasm - was taken Saturday <sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & died at 12<sup>o'clock</sup> Sunday <sup>15<sup>th</sup></sup> night, not being able to speak after his attack. He rode to the fire just after dinner & from there to the spring where Hannah was washing. He remarked to her that he thought he heard some one up the fence, & asked her if she knew what it was. She said there was no one & was surprised at the unusual tone of his voice.

He said he would ride up and see, & so did. Hannah on reflection thought best to go and hunt for him (Pa) after some ten minutes had passed, & he did not return. His strange manner of speech caused her to do this. She went a piece from the spring & called him, - he did not answer, so she went in pursuit of him, & to her astonishment he had hitched his mare, & was lying with his head on his elbow by a little tree & vomiting. She asked him what



was the matter, but he could not speak.  
She then thought he had a spasm & ran  
to the spring for some water, which she  
quickly applied but to no effect. Seeing  
that she could do no good, she jumped  
on Sallie (his mare) & ran to the house for  
Ma, - Ma went. The Dr. was sent for, but  
all could do no good, - he never spoke  
again. I was telegraphed for to Oxford &  
was down in eight hours. A metallic  
coffin was obtained in Canton & this even-  
ing we are to accompany him to his final  
resting place in Franklin, where he will be  
laid along side of Grand Pa, as was ever  
his desire. May all things go well, Bear  
this with firmness for sooner or later we  
all must die. I will return to Oxford  
I suppose & graduate in June, 29<sup>th</sup>, after  
which time I must go hard to work.  
Ma & all are well. Matt is with  
us. Good bye

Your Bro

Arvin.

M. Ann says howdy & wishes she was  
with you.

Arvin.